

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you a lot. This means a lot to us this morning. This is a memory that the Condit family will cherish for a long time. I want to thank you for allowing us this opportunity this morning.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid references to the gallery.

#### TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT WORKS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues, and as well, the American people, that the tax limitation amendment works. Fourteen States have now adopted language that includes tax limitations, including my home State of Nevada.

In tax limitation States, taxes grow more slowly and government spending grows more slowly. On the other hand, the economies expand faster and the job base grows more quickly. Today, we have an opportunity to allow the Federal Government and the national economy to get the same benefits.

It is helpful for us to remember that after taking control in 1994, the Republican Congress balanced the Federal budget for the first time in a generation. It was done by reducing wasteful government spending, not by raising taxes.

Now that we have reached a balanced budget, the tax limitation constitutional amendment will ensure that future Congresses do not resort to the old "tax and spend" ways of the past. This legislation makes raising taxes on the American people exactly what it should be, a last resort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important and much-needed legislation.

#### SCHEDULE VOTE ON TOBACCO LEGISLATION TODAY

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for years tobacco companies have set their sights on America's young people, pinpointing the most appealing way to market their product to them, and deliberately hooking our kids on cigarettes.

A 1984 R.J. Reynolds marketing report says it all: Young people are the "only source of replacement smokers," and that if kids "turn away from smoking, the industry must decline, just as the population which does not give birth will eventually dwindle."

Yet the Republican leadership has refused to act to protect our kids from

this deadly habit, perhaps because the tobacco companies are the largest corporate contributors to the Republican Party.

Every day the Republican leadership fails to schedule debate on comprehensive tobacco legislation, 3,000 more kids in America will pick up this deadly habit, and 1,000 of them will eventually die of a tobacco-related illness.

Mr. Speaker, do the right thing. Schedule a vote on tobacco legislation today.

#### TIME TO HEAL WOUNDS IN SOCIETY

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, once again the New York Stock Exchange has set a new record as it presses on to the 10,000 mark. Our economy is strong nationwide, consumer confidence is very high, and unemployment is at its lowest point, with 2,200,000 people working today that were on welfare in 1994.

With all the good things that are happening today, with all the benefits from being the strongest market in the world, we have overlooked this emptiness in our Nation's soul. The symptoms are everywhere. They are in the paper, on the radio, on prime time television. People no longer honor their commitments, driving divorces up in America. Spousal abuse is up as people deal with life's frustrations without consideration for each other. Children are abused and forgotten in the whole process as people try to put their lives back together again.

Let us heal these wounds in our society by returning to faith in God and the values and virtues that built this great Nation.

#### BEST FOREIGN POLICY IN CHINA'S HISTORY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, with \$60 billion, China buys California naval bases, missiles, attack aircraft, nuclear submarines. If that is not enough to tax your limitation, China then sells missiles to Iran and Pakistan to get more money, and then they use that money to control the Panama Canal.

Now, if that is not enough, folks, check this out: An American company recently gave missile secrets to China that the Pentagon admits these secrets can help China hit every American city right between the eyes with one of their nuclear missiles. Beam me up.

When is the White House going to realize that America has crafted the best foreign policy in China's history?

I yield back the balance of any common sense left in our Capitol.

#### PAY DOWN THE DEBT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, welcome back to all my colleagues from the Easter break work period. I am interested in hearing the collective view of our Nation's citizens from my colleagues. I will share mine.

From the 20th District of Illinois comes one consistent message on the budget surplus: Pay down the debt. Pay down the debt. Pay down the debt. It is the best way to ensure economic growth and opportunity for all, and the most important method of ensuring Social Security.

Let us work toward that end.

#### BEGIN WITH CONSERVING THE HEALTH OF AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is alarming, but hardly surprising, to find the House Republican leadership continuing to do the bidding of the tobacco lobby. Within the last few days, the Speaker has declared that Joe Camel had nothing to do with youth smoking, and today the House Republican whip has opposed efforts in an article in the Wall Street Journal, of course, to reduce youth smoking by raising the price of tobacco.

This is the same House Republican leadership that last year thought the way to a tobacco settlement was to approve a \$50 billion tax break for the tobacco lobby. The only thing I can find to agree on this subject with Speaker GINGRICH on is we need a conservative approach, a very conservative approach that begins with conserving the health of America's young people; not protecting the nicotine peddlers who have exploited them at the same time they have funded the Republican Party.

#### FREE NEEDLE POLICY WRONG

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what can we say about the Enabler in Chief, who has just announced a policy that will actually put the Federal Government in the business of handing out needles to illegal drug users?

The government often does stupid things. The American people know that, and they despair at many of the dumb things the government tries to do. But the government should not be doing dangerous things, especially when people are at their most vulnerable, and they are the ones who will suffer the consequences.

But here we have a government that is at its most misguided, most irresponsible, and most dangerous. The administration is using bad science done by left-wing radicals with an agenda, and basing national policy on a pack of lies. Adults with alcohol addiction do not need enablers who indulge their weakness for alcohol. Kids who take up smoking do not need enablers to provide them with low-tar cigarettes on the theory, well, they are going to smoke anyway.

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Drug addicts do not need needle enablers who help them continue their illegal drug use by giving them free needles. Mr. Speaker, this policy is nuts.

#### CHILDREN NEED TOBACCO OUT OF THEIR LIVES

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, our national effort to hold the tobacco companies responsible for their criminal behavior of the past, of intentional efforts to hook our children on tobacco and nicotine, was dealt a major setback when the Speaker of the House has indicated that it may be difficult for the House to pass tobacco legislation. It will only be difficult if the Speaker of the House does not schedule the bill.

It is the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NEWT GINGRICH), who has the power to schedule the bill or not to schedule the bill, and then the House can address the outrageous behavior of the tobacco companies toward America's children.

The Speaker spent the last 2 weeks traveling in America talking about lessons learned the hard way. Maybe the lesson learned the hard way is if they take their money, a million dollars of tobacco money, the Republicans cannot find it in their hearts to get America's children off of tobacco. If Members take a million dollars of tobacco companies' money, they try in the middle of the night, as the Speaker did last year, to put a \$50 billion tax break for the tobacco companies in the Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, the lesson learned the hard way is that children need tobacco out of their lives.

#### LET US REMEMBER TO THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT LOCALLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, let us not forget that today is Earth Day. Of course, Earth Day is an important day for all of us who care about our environment. Clearly, one message of Earth Day we should never forget is to think globally and act locally.

I am proud of the locally-led efforts in the South Side of Chicago and the south suburbs of Chicago that have worked to establish some important local environmental initiatives: to establish the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in the former Joliet Arsenal, efforts to establish the Calumet National Heritage area in the biState area northwest in Indiana, in the South Side of Chicago efforts to save the Kankakee River from sand and silt sedimentation.

All three are local priorities, locally led; local partnerships working to save the environment locally. The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is the largest conservation area of its kind, the first national tallgrass prairie. Calumet National Heritage Area will be a unique biState national ecological area established in a former industrial area. And, of course, the Kankakee River, the solution to save the Kankakee River, deserves the same kind of national priority as restoration of the Everglades.

Let us remember to think globally and act locally. It works.

#### LET US ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF TEEN SMOKING IN AMERICA

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out about tobacco. It is time for the Congress to do the right thing. Unfortunately, the messages coming from the Speaker's Office are mixed. One day, we ought to do something; the next day, it is too big a burden. It is not too big a burden. We have to protect our young people.

Each day, approximately 6,000 young people try a cigarette. Each day, 300 become long-term smokers. The average teen smoker starts at age 13. Among adults who smoke daily, 82 percent started as teenagers. We can address this problem if we put aside the rhetoric and get down to business.

We are very serious about teen drinking, and we prohibit it. We need to be equally vigilant about teen smoking. We have the means; we have the wherewithal. The only question that remains is whether the Republican leadership has the will.

Please, let us address the question of teen smoking in America.

#### WE MUST BE SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate Earth Day, a day to remember that we must all be conscious of the obligation we have to be sound environmental stewards. In centuries past, mankind was occasionally careless or unaware of the

need for environmentally responsible behavior, but modern science has brought about new awareness of the problems that shortsighted practices pose for future generations who inhabit this resource-rich planet.

The good news is that the scientific age has also brought about the technological revolution to both combat environmental degradation and to maintain the integrity of our natural surroundings. Businesses across the country now adopt environmentally safe practices, due to their awareness of their importance to our future and because technology is now available to make such practices an everyday reality. Earth Day is a day to bring both parties together, for all Americans value clean water, clean air, and a healthy planet. Let us celebrate today, that special day.

#### AMERICA DESERVES A COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO REFORM BILL NOW

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, for the past 50 years the tobacco industry has waged a war of deception against the American people. They have tried to hide the terrible toll that cigarettes take on our children, our families, and on our society. So it should be no surprise that the tobacco industry is trying to deceive the United States Congress. The problem is that the leadership of the United States Congress is falling for the industry's spin, hook, line, and sinker.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Camel is part of the problem. It is time for Congress to solve the Joe Camel problem. This year Congress can pass a comprehensive law to protect America's young people from cigarettes and at long last hold the tobacco industry responsible for 30 years of deception.

Every day in America more than 6,000 American children start smoking. We cannot wait any longer. The American people deserve a comprehensive tobacco reform bill, and they deserve it now.

#### NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM REFLECTS A DISASTROUS FEDERAL DRUG POLICY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, what is it about 1960s liberals and their absolute incapacity to distinguish between good science and bad? Again and again we see the same pattern where left-wing politics trumps science when it comes to regulation, environmental policy, secondhand smoke, safety and risk studies, global warming and, now, free needles for illegal drug users. It is always the same story: bogus science and new government programs.